NSC BRIEFING   16 July 1959

CONFIDENTIAL

CARIBBEAN AREA

I. Diaz Lanz case has aroused Castro, as well as most other Cuban officials, against US for giving asylum and public attention to this "traitor."

A. But case dramatizes Communist danger for Cuban public, and Castro has called Diaz' defection a "cruel blow" to the revolution.

B. Castro becoming irritable and jumpy, but remains determined to use any means, including force, to put over his program.

C. Cuban arms purchasing missions are in Europe and a cargo of semi-automatic rifles from Belgium arrived in Havana last few day

II. President Urrutia's public attack Monday (13 July) on Communism was strongest anti-Communist statement by any Cuban official since January, though it was coupled with attacks on US re Diaz Lanz.

A. Urrutia accused Communists of trying to make Cuba an instrument of the Soviet cold war against the US and said Communists are traitors to Cuban revolution.

B. Previous anti-Communist comments were deleted by Castro from Urrutia's reply to Diaz Lanz' letter of resignation.

III. Six Chinese Communist "newsmen" now in Cuba, some of them preparing to set up new Chinese-language newspaper to serve Cuba's Chinese community, the largest in Latin America.

IV. "Che" Guevara, now in India, contacted Communists there on foreign

25X1C   policy of non-alignment, ████████████████████.

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A. Guevara told Indian Communists that Cuba's hands are now tied by presence in Cuba of US naval base at Guantanamo, but Cuba will eventually be rid of it, as Nasser acted re Suez Canal, and then Cuba can show true foreign policy colors.

V. Unsuccessful coup attempt in Honduras of Sunday (12 July) not directly related to Caribbean crisis.

A. Stemmed mainly from domestic tensions between autonomous armed forces and violently anti-military leaders of governing Liberal Party.

B. Danger of clashes between military and armed pro-government civilians keeping tension high in aftermath of revolt.